



# **National Qualifications 2014 Internal Assessment Report French**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Courses

French: Intermediate 1

French: Intermediate 2

French: Higher

## General comments

In general, the centres verified have shown a good understanding of the requirements of the conduct and content of the speaking assessment at all three levels.

Of the centres verified, only one centre was Not Accepted.

Of the other centres that were Not Accepted last year, all were Accepted this year, having clearly taken on board and implemented the recommendations made in last year's reports.

## Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

It was also clear that most of the interlocutors conducting the speaking assessments are familiar with all of the above.

## Evidence Requirements

Centres are clearly aware of the requirements to submit CDs or cassette recordings of candidate performance.

However, there are still a number of centres that continue to submit incorrectly completed forms, or that fail to send in the necessary documentation appropriately completed. One centre sent in a raft of evidence, in the form of reading and listening NABs, which are not relevant to the verification exercise, which relates solely to the assessment of speaking.

## Administration of assessments

Most of the centres administered the tests in accordance with the available guidelines and documentation, although there were still instances where the duration of the assessments, especially in the discussion element at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels, was either too long or too short. This was drawn to the attention of those centres and their interlocutors.

Although most interlocutors conducted the assessments in a context which encouraged real interaction and communication between themselves and their candidates, there remain a few interlocutors who tend to allow what should be a 'discussion' to take the form of a series of unrelated questions, with the candidate responses taking the form of rehearsed mini-monologues.

It has been indicated to those centres that a supportive and interactive approach by the interlocutor gives the candidate the opportunity to sustain communication in a natural manner on a range of topics.

### **Areas of good practice**

Those interlocutors who conducted the assessment as recommended in the guidelines tended to bring the best out of their candidates.

One centre used peer assessment at Intermediate 1 level. This approach was highly successful, and is to be commended.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ The submission of the correct documentation, completed correctly.
- ◆ The inappropriate conduct of the assessment by a small number of the interlocutor/assessors.